

but, unfortunately, because of some changes in the Goodyear management in terms of what they want to...how they want to handle distribution, demands were made upon the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company Rubber Workers' Union to accept further cuts in pay in exchange for having a national distribution center located here in Lincoln. The union, last week, voted against those further cuts in pay and, as a result, we are in a very serious problem right now in Lincoln and in the state because of the potential loss of something, I believe it's three to 400 jobs are being discussed to be lost. And as this negotiation is occurring, to look elsewhere for this national distribution center, it was thought that an appeal on the part of this Legislature to the Goodyear Company, to ask them to reconsider the situation and perhaps continue negotiations with those employees, would be in order. The goal and intent here is to try to have the Goodyear Company recognize that our employees have been there a long time, worked hard, have made concessions and have tried to do the best job they can and are continuing to want to cooperate with the company. On the other hand, we also want to emphasize that this Legislature has been there time and again to provide assistance to Goodyear and other manufacturers in the state, specifically to Goodyear in some cases because of our concern for that plant and for that company. And I will just recite what is recited in this resolution. In 1981, LB 3 was passed providing for a sales tax exemption from manufacturing and processing equipment. And I recall very clearly that Senator Landis and I and others strove very hard to have that bill apply to existing manufacturers and not just apply to new companies coming into the state, the idea being that a company like Goodyear already in Nebraska should be provided that assistance, as well as a new company coming into the state. And we were able to successfully amend the bill and to see that that provision was included as it passed in 1981, again specifically thinking about Goodyear. In 1987, LB 775 was passed but also a bill was introduced by myself and some other senators specifically to take LB 3 and expand it to replacement equipment, to allow for Goodyear, in particular, and other manufacturers to replace outdated equipment and have the sales tax exemption apply to them. That provision was made part of LB 775 and passed and, of course, we all know the provisions of LB 775 but Goodyear has applied for and received assistance under that...that bill. In addition, Senator Hartnett and I worked on the Shareholders' Protection Act last year when Goodyear was under attack by corporate raiders. Although our plant here wouldn't have been particularly affected by that act